

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-10 (cancelled)

Claim 11 (currently amended): A method for the treatment or prophylaxis of calcium deficiencies in a mammal having or at risk of calcium deficiency comprising the steps of enterally administering to the mammal a nutritional composition comprising one or more *Lactobacillus* bacteria capable of arriving in a living state in intestines of the mammal, wherein the nutritional composition is not a fermented nutritional composition.

Claim 12 (previously presented): The method of Claim 11 wherein the *lactobacilli* is a *Lactobacillus* bacteria capable of adhering to intestinal cells.

Claim 13 (previously presented): The method of Claim 12 wherein the *Lactobacillus* bacteria comprises a *Lactobacillus johnsonii* CNCM I-1225 strain.

Claim 14 (previously presented): The method of Claim 11 wherein the nutritional composition is a liquid and comprises about 10^7 to about 10^{11} cfu/ml of the *Lactobacillus* bacteria.

Claim 15 (cancelled)

Claim 16 (previously presented): The method of Claim 11 wherein the nutritional composition comprises milk proteins.

Claim 17 (previously presented): The method of Claim 16 wherein the nutritional composition comprises an infant formula including hypo-allergenic milk protein hydrolysates.

Claim 18 (previously presented): The method of Claim 11 wherein the nutritional composition comprises prebiotic fibers.

Claim 19 (currently amended): A method for increasing absorption of calcium from a diet comprising the steps of enterally administering to a mammal requiring increased calcium absorption a nutritional composition comprising one or more *Lactobacillus* bacteria capable of arriving in a living state in intestines of the mammal, wherein the nutritional composition is not a fermented nutritional composition.

Claim 20 (cancelled)

Claim 21 (previously presented): The method of Claim 19 wherein the *lactobacilli* comprises a *Lactobacillus* bacteria capable of adhering to intestinal cells.

Claim 22 (previously presented): The method of Claim 21 wherein the *Lactobacillus* bacteria comprises a *Lactobacillus johnsonii* CNCM I-1225 strain.

Claim 23 (currently amended): A method for improving the absorption of calcium in a mammal comprising the steps of enterally administering to the mammal requiring increased calcium absorption a nutritional composition comprising one or more *Lactobacillus* bacteria capable of arriving in a living state in intestines of the mammal, wherein the nutritional composition is not a fermented nutritional composition.

Claim 24 (previously presented): The method of Claim 23 wherein the *Lactobacillus* bacteria is capable of adhering to intestinal cells.

Claim 25 (previously presented): The method of Claim 24 wherein the *Lactobacillus* bacteria comprises a *Lactobacillus johnsonii* CNCM I-1225 strain.

Claim 26 (previously presented): The method of Claim 23 wherein the nutritional composition is a liquid and comprises about 10^7 to about 10^{11} cfu/ml of the *Lactobacillus* bacteria.